United States and Canada would be far from economical, The Chinese have shown no little ingenuity in contriving or utilizing helpful devices. They hatch eggs by simple but effective methods of artificial incubation. In fishing they have many types of nets and also employ cormorants. Their methods of pumping water and of pressing bean cakes for oil are worthy of comment.

Cooperation is obviously desirable, especially since most of the farms are so small. This the Chinese have not been altogether successful in achieving, but by no means have they entirely failed. In protecting crops, in irrigation, in guarding dikes, to a certain extent in saving or borrowing capital and making loans, and in their villages and family and dan systems and secret societies, Chinese farmers have developed organizations for mutual aid and protection.

Deforestation is regarded as one of the great defects of China's economy. Much of the country once was adequately and in places densely wooded. The richness and variety of the native flora can be seen even to-day both in the North and the South, where a temple, the remnants of an imperial hunting preserve, or some other protection, artificial or natural, has allowed a grove to survive. In many a bare area, where nature is given a chance, young growth quickly springs up, often of many kinds of plants. Yet centuries of human occupation have denuded the major part of the country. In the earlier days much of the forest was probably cut simply for the purpose of fitting the land for tillage or to destroy the coverts of wild beasts. In later centuries the need for fuel and building material has kept the hillsides stripped. One result has been the carrying away of the soil to the plains. Dis-

astrous floods have often occurred because a rain has quickly run off from denuded watersheds. Here is to be found one of the causes of the recurrent famines, especially in North China.

Yet even in the management of their timber resources the Chinese have often displayed much skill. Many of the groves of marketable trees are owned by temples and monasteries, and in some an approximation to a scientific procedure of forest management has been developed which has produced a constant supply of wood for revenue and for the use of the religious community. In at least one section of China private owners have had a traditional system of cutting trees for the market and replanting